

AGENDA: January 28, 2003

7.2

CATEGORY: Unfinished Business

DEPT.: Community Services

TITLE: Bicycle Park

RECOMMENDATION

Review input from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the proposed development of a 1.0-acre to 1.25-acre bicycle park in Mountain View at the Crittenden Overflow Basin and provide direction to staff regarding pursuit of this project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to construct a bicycle park on the Crittenden Overflow Basin is estimated at \$33,120, with annual operating costs projected at \$2,700. There currently is no funding appropriated for this project.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On October 22, 2002, the City Council approved the recommendation of the Council Youth Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) to pursue the development of a 1.0-acre to 1.25-acre bicycle park in Mountain View at the Crittenden Overflow Basin and place the remaining three sites on hold (Attachment 1). The bicycle park would be operated and available to youth on a drop-in basis (similar to the skate park) and would not be available for sanctioned bicycle motocross (BMX) races and events. As is typical with projects of this type, input from the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) was obtained on December 11, 2002.

Prior to its presentation to the Commission, staff met on December 9, 2002 with representatives of both the middle and high school Youth Advisory Groups (YAG) to discuss the project. Prior input by the YAG was deemed important to the Commission's discussion of the topic. YAG members were pleased with the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. Overall, they support the concept of the park and feel additional youth input will be necessary during the design process. They also raised liability and safety issues as well as offered suggestions for reducing ongoing maintenance costs (see Attachment 2—Summary of YAG Comments).

On December 11, 2002, the matter was presented to the Commission (Attachment 3). In summary, the Commission questioned the demand and/or need for a bicycle park. While they recognized that an interest survey was conducted at the 2001 Mayor's Youth Conference on a

possible park, the results (51 of the 175 participants expressed interest in the project) did not represent a strong enough mandate to move forward given other City-wide funding priorities.

Were the City, however, to construct the bike park, the consensus of the Commission was that the proposed site (Crittenden Overflow Basin) was too far away and not easily accessible to young riders. A more centrally located site, such as Whisman School/Park (along the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way) or at another existing City park, was preferred.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to the approval of the City Council and the appropriation of needed project funds, staff would develop guidelines over the next 90 to 120 days for the design and operation of a bicycle park at the Crittenden Overflow Basin. Meanwhile, contact with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (both of whom have an interest and/or nearby jurisdiction) would be made. A community workshop with potential bicycle park users would also be hosted by staff to obtain ideas regarding design and hours of operation, etc.

SUMMARY

On October 22, 2002, the City Council approved the recommendation of the Council Youth Ad Hoc Committee to pursue the development of a 1.0-acre to 1.25-acre bicycle park in Mountain View. The bicycle park, which would be located on the Crittenden Overflow Basin, would be operated and available to youth on a drop-in basis (similar to the skate park) and would not be for sanctioned bicycle motocross (BMX) races and events. Prior to making a final determination on the project, input from both the Parks and Recreation Commission and Youth Advisory Groups was obtained.

ALTERNATIVES

- Appropriate necessary funding to construct (\$33,120) and maintain (\$2,700) a bicycle park at the Crittenden Overflow Basin this fiscal year (2002-03).
- Consider the construction of a bicycle park at the Crittenden Overflow Basin as part of the 2003-08 Capital Improvement Program.
- Recommend the construction of a bicycle park at an alternate site.
- Not pursue the development of a bicycle park in Mountain View at this time.

AGENDA: January 28, 2003

PAGE: 3

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the normal agenda-posting process, meeting notices were sent to the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail and to middle school and high school Youth Advisory Group members and to (four) residents who have thus far expressed interest in the project. In addition, meeting notices were posted at the skate park, Gatehouse and Stevens Creek trail head at Central Avenue (Attachment 4). This last location is near the informal bicycle park constructed by youth some time ago.

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- Attachments:
1. Council Report Dated October 22, 2002
 2. Summary of Youth Advisory Group Meeting Comments Dated December 9, 2002
 3. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes Dated December 11, 2002
 4. Public Notice